

January 2014



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Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Updates

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Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Office **Acreage Reporting Deadline - Jan. 15th**

11 Industrial Park Drive
Walpole, NH 03608

Phone: 603-756-2970 ext. 2
Fax: 603-756-2978

www.fsa.usda.gov/NH

Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

County Executive Director:

Kelly Greenbacker
kelly.greenbacker@nh.usda.gov

County Committee:

Timothy Gowen, Chair
Leo Hunter, Vice Chair
Chris Bartlett, Member
Hank Kenney, Member
Linda Rice, Member

Producers have until January 15, 2014, to report crops that have a November 15, 2013 reporting deadline without paying a late-file fee. In New Hampshire, crops under this waiver include 2014 Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, and Fall-Seeded Small Grains. Also, there is still time to file an acreage report for 2014 apples and peaches.

Please visit or call the office before the deadline of Wednesday, January 15th to report these crops if you have not done so already. Please be sure to call ahead and make an appointment to ensure that an FSA employee will be available to assist you.

The NH Farm Service Agency has established the following deadlines for the 2014 crop year:

Nov. 15, 2013 - Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, and Fall Seeded Small Grains

Jan. 2, 2014 - Honey

Jan. 15, 2014 - Apples, Peaches, Nectarines

Feb 15, 2014 - Maple Sap

May 31, 2014 - Ornamental Nursery

July 15, 2014 - Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding,

Next County Committee Meeting: January 21, 2014 at 6:00 PM

and

All Other Crops

NH Acting Farm Loan Manager:
Brian Kuper
brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov

Farm Loans:
The Concord Center
10 Ferry St, Suite 212
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-223-6003

Tax Time Reminder

Producers are reminded that they will only receive an IRS Form 1099-G or IRS Form 1099-MISC if their payments totaled \$600 or more in 2013.

Please call the county office if you have any questions.

FSA County Committee Elections

The candidates in this year's election are:

Leo Hunter, from Claremont is nominated in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2, Sullivan County, to serve as a committee member. LAA 2 represents Claremont, Charlestown, Unity, Newport, Goshen, and Sunapee.

New ballots were mailed to eligible voters on December 20, 2013. These ballots will indicate that they are the corrected ballot in several places, including on the outside of the mailing, on the ballot and on the outside of the envelope.

The corrected ballot must be returned to the Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Office or postmarked by Jan. 17, 2014. The election will be held at the County Committee Meeting on Jan. 21, 2014. All newly elected members will take office Feb. 18, 2014.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2013 fact sheet and brochures, can be found on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or at the local USDA service center.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Farming Operation Changes

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible if they participate in FSA programs. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchase property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to do so

can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time in the spring and early summer.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office because of work schedules, distance, health, etc..., FSA has a power of attorney form available that allows producers to designate another person to conduct business at the office. If interested, contact our office for more information.

Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to NRCS is necessary.

USDA Rural Development Seeking Applications for its Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPG) Program

The deadline for applications under USDA Rural Development's VAPG program is February 24, 2014. The primary objective of the VAPG program is to help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of their products. Generating new products, creating and expanding market opportunities, and increasing farm income are the end goals of this program. You may receive priority if you are a beginning farmer or rancher; a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher; a small or medium-sized farm or ranch structured as a family farm; a farmer or rancher cooperative; or are proposing a mid-tier value chain. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. The maximum grant is \$75,000 for planning grants and \$200,000 for working capital grants. Producers must match the grant funds requested with cash or eligible in-kind funds. Additional information can be found at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_VAPG.html. Contact the New Hampshire USDA Rural Development office for assistance at 603-223-6035.

Dates to Remember

- Jan 15** - Last day to report 2014 Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, and Fall-Seeded Small Grains without paying a late-file fee
- Jan 15** - Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2014 crop year - Apples, Peaches, and Nectarines
- Jan 17** - Last day to return corrected COC voter ballots to the county office
- Jan 20** - Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (Office Closed)
- Jan 21** - Cheshire-Sullivan FSA County Committee Meeting and Election
- Feb 17** - Washington's Birthday Holiday (Office Closed)

Feb 18 - Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2014 crop year - Maple Sap

Interest Rates

Selected Interest Rates for January 2014

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - 1.875%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct 4.125%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct, Joint Financing 5.00%
Emergency Loans - 2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - (7 years) 2.25%

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).